

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0193] with the following amended paragraph:

[0193] A classification coprocessor **730** “snoops” on data packets passing between network I/O interface **710** and fabric interface **720** and network processor **740**. Classification coprocessor is configured to detect particular types of packets by detecting characteristics of those packets at any protocol level. The patterns that the classification coprocessor detects are stored in a coprocessor pattern memory **732**, which is set a classification control processor **734**. When classification coprocessor **730** detects a particular type of packet is it looking for, it informs network processor **740** with little delay after network processor **740** has received the packet. In this version of the system, classification coprocessor **730** is manufactured by Solidum Systems, and provides detection of packets based on regular expression specifications. These regular expressions can involves involve features of the packet at one or more protocol layers.

Please replace paragraph [0197] with the following amended paragraph:

[0197] If the packet does not need to-processing by software layers of the architecture, network processor **740** send the packet out fabric interface **720** to an I/O module for transmission out of the MSSP. The I/O module receives the packet, which is passed through network processor **740** to I/O interface **710** and out of the MSSP.